revised Access Deficit Charges (ADC) regime effective from 01.02.2005. This was part of the annual review as announced by TRAI in its last Interconnection Usage Charge (IUC) Regulation effective from 01.02.2004. The new regime envisages reduction in ADC contribution for national long distance calls to 30 Paise from earlier slab of 30 P, 50 P and 80 P and for international long distance calls it envisages reduction in ADC to Rs. 2.50 per minute for outgoing calls and Rs. 3.25 for incoming calls as earlier ADC of Rs. 4.25 per minute applicable for both incoming and outgoing calls.

According to TRAI, the amount of ADC to be provided to BSNL is estimated to be Rs. 4954 crores for BSNL, which is comparable with the previous ADC estimations of Rs. 4792 crores. However BSNL has stated that it would amount to reduction in amount by Rs. 1254 crores.

The exact impact of traffic pattern at this stage cannot be estimated due to multiplicity of factors contributing to traffic growth.

The support to new telephone facilities in rural/backward areas, USO Fund has been created on 1.4.2002 and total disbursement to service providers is approximately Rs. 1700 crores upto 28.2.2005.

Problems faced by Mumbai

*59. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission had convened its first-over meeting to deal exclusively with the infrastructural, social and economical problems plaguing Mumbai, the country's financial capital and if so, the decisions taken thereon;

(b) whether Chief Minister of Maharashtra had given a representation to the Prime Minister when he was on visit to Mumbai in January, 2005, and discussed the specific issues of Mumbai;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the decisions taken thereon;

(d) whether the Prime Minister has himself taken an initiative to spruce up the city to make it a Shanghai; and

(e) if so, the plans and the amount allocated for implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir. A meeting was held on 22nd November, 2004 in the Planning Commission with the officers of the Government of Maharashtra. Three key areas for Mumbai's transformation were indicated, namely, transport infrastructure, housing and other infrastrucuture. These proposals are at an early stage of formulation and the State Govt. has not yet developed them into implementable projects with the necessary financial tie up.

(b) and (c) During his visit to Mumbai on 6-7 January, 2005, the Prime Minister was given a detailed briefing by Government of Maharashtra on initiatives for Mumbai's infrastructure upgradation as mentioned at (a).

(d) and (e) The Prime Minister held a meeting on 16th October, 2004 with the officials of Ministry of Urban Development and the Planning Commission to discuss ideas for Mumbai's transform into a global metropolis and the details about National Mission on Urban Renewal.

National Highways in Tamil Nadu

*60. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of about 3850 Kms. of National Highways in the State of Tamil Nadu, 1629 Kms. has been handed over to the NHAI for implementing the National Highway Development Programme and port connectivity programmes;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the work on 1074 Kms. out of 1629 Kms. handed over to NHAI by the State Government of Tamil Nadu is yet to be taken up by the NHAI; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Out of 1630 km. of National Highways entrusted to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) by the Government of India (not by Government of Tamil Nadu), work on 445 km has already been completed and work on 168 km is in progress. Work on the remaining 1017 km. as follows is yet to be taken up.